

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant acknowledges receipt of the Office Action dated December 18, 2003. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended in response to this Office Action. Claims 9-11 have been withdrawn from consideration; the applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application covering the subject matter of these claims. Claims 1-11 remain in the case. Reconsideration and further examination of claims 1-8 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to Claims 1 and 5 (the Action said 1 and 4, but it is believed that independent claims 1 and 5 were intended) due to informalities. She requested that "a freezing point" be changed to "the freezing point" in each claim. Accordingly, these corrections have been made.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3 and 5-7 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi (U.S. 4,451,569). The examiner asserts that Kobayashi discloses a method for storing reduced glutathione (Col. 2, line 60-Col. 3, line 17). In point of fact, however, Kobayashi discloses a method of preparing a stable preparation of the enzyme glutathione peroxidase. Kobayashi does not appear to disclose preparation of a stable composition of glutathione itself. Kobayashi does describe the use of glutathione as a substrate for measuring the activity of stabilized glutathione peroxidase prepared according to his invention (Col. 2, lines 32-50). The Applicant, through his representatives, respectfully points out that reduced glutathione and glutathione peroxidase are distinctly different chemical species, and are clearly recognized as such in the biochemical art. Accordingly, it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-8 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi (U.S. 4,451,569). The examiner asserts that Kobayashi discloses a method for storing reduced glutathione (Col. 2, line 60-Col. 3, line 17). The examiner further asserts that, while Kobayashi does not teach storage at 5° C, storage at 5° C would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art. However, as pointed out above, Kobayashi appears to disclose preparation of a stable composition of glutathione peroxidase, not glutathione. Accordingly, it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

It is submitted that claims 2-4 and 6-8 are allowable because they further depend from and limit their independent claims, which are allowable over the cited art references based upon the above arguments.

While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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